Customs Duty on Aluminium Ingots .

3616. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs Duty on Aluminium Ingots is 25 per cent basic + 16 per cent additional duty + 4 per cent special additional duty, because of which the landed price of imported metal is higher than the domestic sale price; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to stop exploitation of domestic market by the primary producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAY SINGH RAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) Customs duty on aluminium ingots is 25 per cent basic + 16 per cent additional duty + 4 per cent special additional duty. There are no price controls on aluminium. Aluminium is kept under Open General Licence (OGL) category for import/ export. The prices of aluminium metal and products are determined by market forces.

Reasonable prices for Aluminium

3617. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether two major producers of aluminum metal in the country are among the lowest cost producers of the metal in the world;

(b) if so, whether the sale price of, aluminium metal in the country is much higher than the prevailing international price at London Metal Exchange, as a result of which aluminium utensils and pressure cookers, used largely by the poor people, have become costly and unaffordable; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to make aluminium metal available to the common man at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAY SINGH RAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) The cost of production of aluminium of the two major producers of aluminium in the country, HINDALCO and NALCO is comparable to that of the lowest cost producers of the metal in the world.

(b) and (c) Aluminium sector has been decontrolled and aluminium is in